

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain pending in the instant application.

In the Office Action mailed September 14, 2005, Claims 1-21 are held subject to a restriction requirement; the Examiner contending that the claims are directed to more than one invention as follows:

- Group I – Claims 1-11, which the Examiner contends are directed to a composite geotextile;
- Group II - Claims 12-19, which the Examiner contends are directed to a process of forming a geotextile; and
- Group III – Claims 20-21, which the Examiner contends are directed to a method of lining canals.

Applicants herein elect without traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-11), and therefore cancel Claims 12-21. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter.

Conclusion

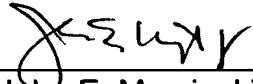
Applicants have cancelled Claims 12-21. Such amendment is to be construed as “truly cosmetic” and is not believed to narrow the scope of the claims or raise an estoppel within the meaning of *Festo Corporation, v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., LTD., et al.*, 535 U.S. 722 (2002). Applicants also contend that such amendments add no new matter and find support in the specification.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early examination and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 1-11. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in

condition for other than allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number given below so that additional changes may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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